



## Welcome to the Ground Plane May, 2003 Issue

### MAY 2003 MESSAGE FROM SBARA

"Those April showers that bring May flowers," OK... April's come and gone and it is still raining. So, "what do May showers bring?" Good band Propagation? Well the bands have been pretty good this last week. Even though we are on a 'down' cycle there are periods of rising sunspot activity during down cycles. This last week was one of those periods. The daily sunspot number reached 224 on April 29. It hasn't been this high since March 9. Check the bands out and get on the air!

Hopefully the amateur community will be as fortunate having good propagation on the upcoming 2003 Field Day weekend of June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Last year the ARRL received a record number of entrants for Field Day. It is the premier contest in terms of participation and is growing bigger every year. Why? Everyone can take part, no matter what license class you have.

Planning for this year's SBARA Field Day is underway. Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> at 5pm will be our traditional Field Day Potluck. Last year the food committee did a wonderful job. We are looking forward to another great meal together.

This year we have reserved the park for Friday and Saturday overnights and Sunday morning. We are going to try something new in setting up. The rules allow setup starting on Friday after 11:00am. If you are available on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> we could use your help getting ready in the 24 hours before Field Day starts. (Saturday 11:00am)

**NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 13, 2003**--The new 2003 ARRL Field Day logo says it all: "When all else fails . . .," the legend in the upper left-hand corner declares. The four-part image--which will be on this year's Field Day pin and other gear--depicts a tornado and downed utility lines in opposing corners, and an Amateur Radio transceiver in the lower right. Field Day 2003 takes place June 28-29--as always the fourth full weekend in June.



*MAY 2003 MESSAGE FROM SBARA (cont'd.)*

The addition of the GOTA station (Get On The Air) last year gave an opportunity for Technician class and non-amateurs to get on the HF bands. We are thinking of having the GOTA station on 15 meter SSB in hopes of making even more contacts. Come to the GOTA station and try to make at least one contact. All you have to do is sign-in with your name and call sign.

Another idea being considered is having two stations (one CW and one SSB at the same time) on both 20 and 40 meters. These two bands are where the action is and therefore the most fun and fun is what Field Day is all about. So please mark your calendar. Come and join the SBARA Field Day group. Field Day has been an amateur radio tradition since 1934. I'll guarantee that you'll have fun.

73, de WT6K

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**MAY SBARA MEETING PROGRAM**

This month's meeting will be a demonstration of an Elecraft K2 computer interface for operating the K2 remotely. The presenter will be no other than our own Mike Studer, AB6CV who is also the software developer. The unique feature of Mike's software is that it is developed using the Linux operating system instead of Mac or Windows. Come see what Mike has created or as a preview, before you come to the presentation, go to his web page, <http://www.qsl.net/ab6cv> and take a look at the screenshots of the GUI. (Graphic User Interface)

## Amateur Radio Happenings



EMCOMMWEST-2003 will be held in Reno on May 31, 2003. This ARRL/ARES sponsored event is oriented toward emergency communications.

For additional information visit —  
<http://www.cvrc.net/emcommwest/>

**PACIFICON 2003** will be held at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon California.

**PACIFICON** is the ARRL's Pacific Division convention. This year it will be held from October 17th through the 19th. Again, we will be bringing in great speakers, offering ham radio classes and testing to the public and sponsoring technology forums throughout the entire weekend.

For additional information visit —  
<http://www.pacificon.org>



**1. Eligibility:** Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

**2. Object:** To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

**3. Date and Time Period:** Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday. **Field Day 2003 will be held June 28-**

### **SBARA Meeting Minutes 4-16-2003**

Al Rendon WT6K opened the meeting with introductions.

Sam Severs WS6S read the minutes of the SBARA Board meeting on 4/9/2003.

Jim Woods KE6I VA presented his Treasurers & Membership report. The content of these reports has been published in the April Board minutes.

ARRL Section Manager Dennis K6DF reminded all SBARA members to remember to identify while operating and to be aware that others are listening.

Dan Mayberry KF6JZC indicated has just upgraded his ticket to General.

Eli Feriante KG6HOA announced he had passed his code test.

Dennis Franklin K6DF expressed interest in reviving the SBARA 10 Meter Net. It was decided that the net would resume on Thursdays at 8:00 PM local time on 28.400/ USB.

WA6PWW encouraged the SBARA membership to use the 3 repeaters on the hill and announced that a 6 Meter box is in the works.

After a short break for refreshments the meeting resumed with a Home Brew table featuring items that members had built or assembled from kits as well as some antique items. The members exhibiting the items provided some technical insights and historical background:

Ted N6BFO presented a T network tuner featuring 2 roller inductors that offers improved harmonic attenuation. Ted advised that half of the "T" could be used as an "L" tuner for use with long wires. Ted has used it on verticals, dipoles, long wires and full wave loops.

Dennis K6DF showed off a 1920's telegraph sounder set in a wooden audio resonator box. Dennis indicated that tobacco cans had been used to adjust the pitch of these sounders so an operator could monitor a number of telegraph circuits and tell them apart just by the pitch.

Adam KG6HDR showed a simple 1/4 wave antenna for 2 meters and a small homemade paddle.

Jim Woods KE6I VA demonstrated a past SBARA project's 2 Meter ground plane antenna that comes apart and stores in its PVC base.

Kristen K6WX showed off the insides of her new Elecraft K2 100 watt HF transceiver that she recently completed from a kit while on a vacation visiting her mother. It features the SSB and band pass filter options. Kristen advised that everything needed for test & alignment is contained in the radio but she recommends access to an oscilloscope for checkout.

Joshua KG6HDT displayed a HF transceiver in an Altoids box that puts out a modest 1/2 watt. The 12V battery dwarfed the rig!

WA6PWW showed off the new MP3 miniature mobile screwdriver antenna produced by Super Antennas of Placerville CA. It allows mobile operation from 40 through 10 Meters.

Duke KD6PJE displayed a smart charger assembled from a kit.

Lance KB6I NH presented a code practice oscillator he built and paired up with a military J38 strait key.

Al Rendon WT6K brought an old Hickok tube tester in nice shape and displayed a home made knock off of the "Bencher" paddle. Al also showed a mast mounted tuner featuring ganged roller inductors and a coax balun.

Last of all Dennis K6DF showed off a set of ancient Semaphore flags and demonstrated how they were used. Dennis then shared a short history of signaling on land and sea with flags, lights and lamps.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

All membership renewals have been processed and all checks have been deposited.  
We have 73 total members, 51 are paid. The break down is as follows:

|                         |       |                           |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| Regular Paid Membership | 26    |                           |
| Senior Paid Membership  | 15    |                           |
| Family Paid memberships | 10    | (Total 21 Family Members) |
|                         | <hr/> |                           |
|                         | 51    | Total                     |
|                         |       |                           |
| Honorary Members        | 2     |                           |
| Courtesy Members        | 3     |                           |
| New Ham License's       | 6     |                           |

## **TREASURE REPORT**

Our finances are in good shape for this year. We have \$1068 in the checking account and \$2038 in the CD account. Most of our major expenses have been paid for this year leaving us with a estimated expense of \$700 for Field Day June 27, 28 & 29

Our average monthly expense runs about \$90 per month for newsletter, stamps, meeting and refreshments.

this would be another \$630 total. Which means we would have to dip into our reserve CD account for about \$400 to cover and what ever we spend on the Christmas party in December. (Yes, we are going to have one this year)

Our physical year matches the check book statements date: December 19, 2002 to December 19, 2003.

The financial activities for the first four months are as follows:

## **TREASURE REPORT**

May 2, 2003

The following is the quarterly plus treasure report. It reflects all moneys received during the first four months of 2003. It also, reflects all moneys spent for the same period.

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Beginning Balance 12/19/02 | 798.82 |
|----------------------------|--------|

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Receipts this period | 1234.27 |
|----------------------|---------|

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Dues Receipts | 540.00 |
|---------------|--------|

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Repeater Fund | 5.00 |
|---------------|------|

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Zucchini Festival | 689.27 |
|-------------------|--------|

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Expenses this period | 865.19 |
|----------------------|--------|

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| Newsletter | 110.41 |
|------------|--------|

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| Stamps | 148.00 |
|--------|--------|

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Meeting Refresh. | 67.69 |
|------------------|-------|

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Rubber Stamp | 28.09 |
|--------------|-------|

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Repeater Fund | 205.00 |
|---------------|--------|

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| Insurance Liability | 348.00 |
|---------------------|--------|

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| P.O. Box Rental | 58.00 |
|-----------------|-------|

|                  |                 |                |                             |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Balance</b>   | <b>04/19/03</b> | <b>1067.90</b> | <b>Checkbook &amp; Bank</b> |
| <b>Statement</b> |                 |                |                             |
| <b>CD's</b>      | <b>03/20/03</b> | <b>2038.54</b> | <b>Statement</b>            |

## TWO-HAM CREW SET TO FLY TO INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Space veterans Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, and NASA astronaut Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, were scheduled to head into space this weekend to assume the reins of the International Space Station (ISS) as its Expedition 7 crew. Crew commander Malenchenko, 41, and NASA

Space Station Science Officer Lu, 39, will be the first two-person ISS crew increment and the first primary crew to travel to the space station on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. Their Soyuz TMA-2 vehicle is scheduled to launch April 26, at approximately 0354 UTC from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. They'll arrive aboard the ISS April 28. The two crews will spend six days together on the ISS.

Originally scheduled to return in March aboard the space shuttle Atlantis STS-114 mission, Expedition 6 Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, Flight Engineer Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB, and NASA Space Station Science Officer Don Pettit, KD5MDT, will return to Earth aboard the Soyuz TMA-1 craft that's now attached to the space station. They're scheduled to land on May 3 in Kazakhstan. Bowersox, Budarin and Pettit have been in space since November 23.

NASA says that with the arrival of the Expedition 7 crew just days away, the Expedition 6 crew has been preparing for "handover" activities this week. On April 23, the crew conducted a motion control system test in the Soyuz TMA-1 that Expedition 6 crew will use to return to Earth.

Malenchenko and Lu will remain in space until October. NASA has said that until the space shuttle returns to flight-ready status pending the outcome of the Columbia accident investigation, Russian Soyuz vehicles will handle ISS crew rotations. NASA Chief Sean O'Keefe said this week, however, that he expects the shuttle fleet to be space-ready by year's end. NASA continues to investigate the February 1 shuttle Columbia tragedy that claimed the lives of seven astronauts, three of them Amateur Radio licensees.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says NASA has okayed a schedule of one or two ARISS school group contacts per week, despite the reduction in crew size. The grounding of the shuttle fleet could put a crimp in plans to deliver new ham radio gear to the ISS this year, however.

## Paul Harvey's Salute to ham radio

**Wednesday 3/19/03**

"America's quiet warriors are the legion of ham radio operators. 700,000 of them who are always at ready for backup duty in emergencies. Amateur, unpaid, uncelebrated, civilian, radio operators, during and after floods, fires and tornadoes.

After the 9-11 attack hams were indispensable in reuniting families. Most recently it was they who expedited the search for debris after the disaster to the space shuttle, Columbia. And right now, at this moment, they are involved in homeland security to a greater degree than you would want me to make public."

<http://www.paulharvey.com>

## SBARA Net on 10 Meters returns

By Sam Severs / WS6S

*During the April SBARA meeting our ARRL Section Manager Dennis Franklin / K6DF joined us and contributed to our display of homebrew, kit and antique radio equipment by displaying an old telegraph sounder and delivering a very comprehensive talk on the history of signaling on land & sea with flags, lamps & lights.*

While Dennis gave a great talk he also asked a good question during the evening...what ever happened to the SBARA 10 Meter net? Many members present remembered the net but no reason was advanced for it not continuing except a lack of interest. As a result Dennis called for the net to be revived and many at the meeting affirmed a desire to resume it on Thursday nights at 8:00 PM on 28.400 MHz.

I admit I missed the first net date as I went out of town for a 4-day holiday right after the meeting Wednesday evening. The next Thursday I could find no SBARA members on frequency but did find 4 other members responding on may 1. While acting as net control I heard & conversed with Adam Feriante / KG6HDR, Joshua Feriante / KG6HDT & Eli Feriante / KG6HOA. Later Gene Arrillaga / KF6ZYD checked in and we all conversed about the Radio Shack HTX-10 radios everyone had and was using (sorry, mine is still in the closet...I used a full featured HF transceiver). It seems that Radio Shacks recent decision to drop all amateur related items has caused a run on most items with the HTX-10 suddenly becoming more popular as the price fell from \$69.00 to \$49.00. Adam offered some pointers to Gene about HTX-10 operation and revealed that one of his son's had used the HTX-10 on a weekend with a 'Rascal' and netted quite a bit of DX using PSK31.

When I finally closed the net I indicated I would be listening for a while and Adam / KG6HDR called again and asked to QSY to 29.610 for a check of his HTX-10 on FM. I can attest that his audio was great and the rig is working well.

Gene has reported on the SBARA email reflector that the HTX-10 is still available and is now priced at \$49.00 (at \$69.00 I think I got shaved!). The manager of the Paseo Padre store indicated that there were still 23 HTX 10's in the coastal area between San Bruno and King City. and he would be glad to obtain one for anyone who can wait a few days. Radio shack is also selling off the rest of their Ham/CB accessories very cheap...I purchased a field strength/ SWR meter for only \$2.97 that Gene identified (RS 21-533). The "Rascal" is a sound card to radio adapter offered by BUX COMM ([www.packetradio.com](http://www.packetradio.com)) currently for \$19.95 in kit form. It's very simple and comes with software for PSK31...ad a pre-made cable to connect to your rig for another \$14.50 and your there (yes, they have an HTX-10 cable).

A lot more was discussed among us during the net and your just going to have to tune in and participate to find out more! I'll be listening for your check in...

Sam Severs / WS6S SBARA club Secretary

Editors Note: Every Monday Evening the Bay Area Chapter of 10-10 International meets at 8:00PM local time on 28.475.... Bill—WB9YVM—10-10 Number 25878.



Radio Shack HTX-10

## **ARES/RACES and CERT Comm**

By Doug Stinson, KG6ADR and Steve Wilson, KG6HJU

Many people are confused about the relationship between the Community Emergency Response Team's Communication group (CERT Comm) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service<sup>1</sup> (ARES/RACES) group. Are they competing groups? Will they interfere with each other on the air? We'll try to briefly answer those questions.

ARES is a nation-wide group of amateur radio operators dedicated to providing communications services when normal communications are stretched thin or disrupted. ARES establishes relationships with existing emergency service providers -- police departments, fire departments, hospitals, the Red Cross and others. During an emergency, those organizations may find their usual communications systems are taxed, because the volume of messages exceeds the system capacity, or because a disaster has damaged their system. They then call on ARES for assistance, supplementing their normal communications system. There is a formal system for "activating" ARES and notifying members that their assistance is required.

CERT is a way of training and organizing people who spontaneously volunteer to help in a disaster. CERT Comm assures that some of those volunteers are capable of setting up a communications system which serves the internal needs of CERT.

CERT Comm and ARES are complimentary organizations that interact extensively. For example, ARES has identified certain amateur radio frequencies as the primary frequencies for emergency communication within Fremont. CERT Comm depends on ARES to manage the use of those frequencies by conducting a "directed net". Such a net brings order to the airwaves. Each CERT district communications post will be a participant in this net, along with ARES members assigned to other "served agencies".

Coordination is required to make this interaction effective. To that end an ARES officer is a non-voting member of the CERT Comm Steering Committee. All CERT Comm procedures are consistent with standard ARES practice. During the major CERT drill each April, ARES runs the tactical net. We encourage people to be CERT trained and be members of both CERT Comm and ARES. Since it takes a fairly large disaster before people spontaneously volunteer, an ARES member is more likely to be "called out" than a CERT Comm member. This provides more opportunities to practice and to serve. For planning, those who are members of both organizations should make clear to which organization they will respond when "the big one" hits.

For additional information on ARES, contact Steve Wilson, Fremont Emergency Coordinator, at [kg6hju@arrl.net](mailto:kg6hju@arrl.net). For additional information on CERT Comm see <http://www.FremontCERT.com>.

### **Footnotes**

1) It is beyond the scope of this article to describe in detail the differences between ARES and RACES. Basically, RACES operation is authorized by emergency management officials only, and this operation is strictly limited to official civil-preparedness activities. ARES operates with a much broader charter. However, should the President invoke his War Emergency Powers to silence amateur radio operations, RACES may continue to operate on certain specified frequencies. Nationally, there is a push for dual membership in and co-leadership of both organizations to allow seamless switching between both modes of operation as the situation demands.



Altoids Transceiver



Tube Tester



Telegraph Sounder

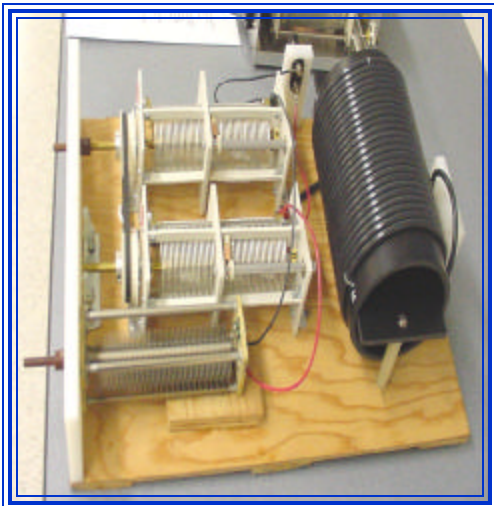
Really  
Cool  
Tools



Keyer



N^BRO Tuner



WT6K Tuner

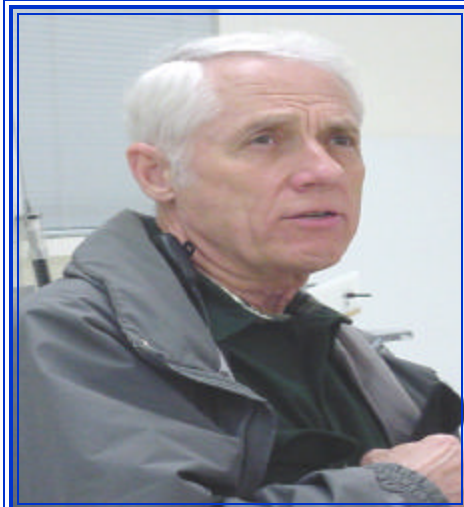
**April 2003 Member Photos**



Dennis



Jim



Lance

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### The Ground Plane

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